



The Cleaner Air Partnership

The Cleaner Air Partnership is a joint project of Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, the Sacramento Metro Chamber and Valley Vision to help the Sacramento Region meet clean air standards that protect health and promote economic growth.

February 24, 2006

Catherine Witherspoon
Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Witherspoon:

The Cleaner Air Partnership is pleased to submit comments on the state's Emission Reduction Plan for Ports and International Goods Movement in California, a source of crucial mitigation for the increase in goods movement activity expected in the next two decades.

1900 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
phone: (916) 325-1830
fax: (916) 325-1835
www.cleanerairpartnership.org

For nearly 20 years our partnership between the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails and recently Valley Vision has worked to help the six-county Sacramento region meet clean air standards that protect health and promote economic growth, with significant results.

Sacramento is at the crossroads of California's goods movement picture, causing significant air quality impacts for our 2.8 million residents. Interstate 5 and State Route 99 serve major north-south movement and Interstate 80 is a crucial east-west corridor serving the Bay Area and Port of Oakland. Our region is home to one of the West's largest rail yards in Roseville, the Port of Sacramento and to the Mather Cargo Airport.

Although our air quality is getting better, Sacramento remains a serious nonattainment area for federal ozone standards and does not meet state standards for fine particulates. Meanwhile, our static local population is expected to increase by nearly 50 percent or as many as 1.2 million more residents in the next two decades.

With the increased goods movement expected through Pacific Rim ports, our region will be significantly affected as we look to accommodate additional freight on trucks and trains, thereby increasing the need for infrastructure to reduce congestion and pollution. Particularly, increases in inland goods movement from the Port of Oakland will have emissions effects here. As we make transportation and infrastructure investments related to increased goods movement, the negative air quality impacts that will affect this region must be considered and active steps taken to adequately mitigate them, protecting the physical and economic health of the Capitol region.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 325-1630.

Sincerely,

Bill Mueller
Manager, Cleaner Air Partnership